

leaders of our State and country, is a crucial component of our society.

I congratulate Brandon Elementary School on being recognized for this outstanding achievement and encourage the school's administration to keep up the wonderful work they are doing that is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

#### HONORING THOMAS HUFFORD

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Thomas Michael Hufford, who passed away on August 29, 2021, at the age of 86. Mr. Hufford was a prominent business owner and community leader in the Roanoke area.

Mr. Hufford was born on August 14, 1935 in Huntington, West Virginia to Genevieve Eloise Kirley Wippel Hufford of Huntington and Anthony Wippel. He graduated in 1953 from St. Joseph High School in Huntington, West Virginia where he served as president of his class. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, graduating in 1957. Following college, he was in the army reserves at Fort Knox.

Mr. Hufford was an insurance agent by trade and owner of Hufford Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia. For all his life, he sustained a strong voice in politics and his community. He served as the Planning Commissioner of Roanoke County for several years. He also ran for State Senate and Congress of Virginia in the 1970s. His civic service through business and leadership made a profound impact on his community and those around him.

Mr. Hufford was preceded in death by his wife, Ada D. Hufford. He is survived by his two daughters, Karen Hufford and Jill Hufford, and his younger brother, Frederick M. Hufford. He also has two granddaughters, Morgan Dilling and Samantha Hufford, and a great-granddaughter, Melah Grace Dilling. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ELLA B. SPEED ON HER 101ST BIRTHDAY

#### HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Apalachicola native Ella Breedlove Speed, who is turning 101.

Mrs. Ella is a pillar in her community and a role model for many. For more than two decades, she worked for the Franklin County School District as a bookkeeper. She also has served as a missionary in the Holiness Church of the Living God and is currently serving as an elder and bishop in the Love Center Church.

Bishop Speed's heart for serving others is unmatched and her energetic spirit is infectious. Make no mistake, age is just a number. Mrs. Ella is still just as sharp as she was in her younger days and she has not stopped serving and comforting others.

I want to personally thank this incredible woman for her contribution to Apalachicola and Florida's Second Congressional District as a whole. Happy birthday to Mrs. Ella.

#### HONORING DR. PATRICK BURCHFIELD

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Dr. Patrick Burchfield, Director of the Gladys Porter Zoo, which is located in Brownsville, Texas. Under Dr. Burchfield's leadership, the Gladys Porter Zoo has grown significantly since it first opened in 1971, and he has served at the forefront of one of the world's most notable international endangered species recovery programs.

Dr. Burchfield joined the staff at the Gladys Porter Zoo in 1971, working in every capacity and eventually became director in 2007, which he earned through hard work and dedication to the Zoo.

As director of the Zoo, Dr. Burchfield has led efforts to make the zoo more inclusive and accessible to all members of his community—but especially those with disabilities. Last year, the zoo opened a newly renovated Giraffe Landing Feeding Experience—complete with an ADA-accessible platform so that all may participate.

Under his leadership, the zoo has added facilities for critically endangered species such as Orinoco crocodiles and threatened species like nurse sharks. Along with creating a safe environment for these imperiled species, the Gladys Porter Zoo has showcased species that are native to the Rio Grande Valley such as diamondback terrapins, black-spotted newts and red-crowned amazons.

Forty years ago, endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles were on the brink of extinction, but this changed shortly after Dr. Burchfield, then the Zoo's Curator of Herpetology, stepped into the picture. In 1981, Dr. Burchfield, at the request of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, accepted the role of Coordinator for the U.S. contingent of the U.S./Mexico Binational Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Program. Program activities included protecting the wild nests and hatchlings of this imperiled species at its primary nesting grounds in Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. From 1985 to present, the number of nesting female turtles rose from 283 to an estimated 7,000 to 9,000.

When asked why he cared so much about Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, Dr. Burchfield said, "I saw an opportunity to try and do something meaningful, and that maybe we would have a shot at saving this species. So, my job was to do whatever I could do to help make that happen."

Since 1992, Dr. Burchfield has been an instructor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the Department of Biology. He is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the introductory zoo biology course, a prerequisite for all aspiring zoologists. In this capacity, Dr. Burchfield sought to further the efficacy of his animal conservation efforts by inspiring the environmental champions of tomorrow right in the heart of South Texas.

Madam Speaker, not only is Dr. Burchfield a leader in animal conservation, but he is undoubtedly one of the most humble men I have had the pleasure of meeting. His work has never revolved around self-interest or accolades, but rather his genuine desire to save species and raise awareness about the need to preserve our planet's dwindling natural resources. I thank him for the essential role he has played in shaping a healthier future for all and for choosing to make Brownsville, Texas his home.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on September 23, 2021. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 284 to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, I would have voted no. I do not believe that a 10 percent across the board reduction in funding, as this amendment proposed, is a responsible way to reduce spending.

#### SEAN NEELAN

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sean Neelan of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding volunteer services and contribution to their local community. Sean Neelan is the recipient of this year's award due to his unmatched willingness and dedication to answer the call of his community. Sean went above and beyond and dedicated countless hours of service to the Wheat Ridge community.

Congratulations to Sean Neelan for his public service and I extend my deep appreciation for his contributions to our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 27, 2021*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make Roll Call vote No. 277 as I was required to preside over a subcommittee hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted YES to Roll Call No. 277, Mfume of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 26.